



Croton's 2007-2008 Budget

Since early January, the Village budget for fiscal year 2007-2008 has been under development. The process begins with the department heads submitting their individual needs. The Village Manager and Treasurer then meet with Dept. heads to analyze and evaluate each department's budget submission. Each expense item must be justified and modifications are made based on these reviews. On March 21, 2007, the Village Manager, in his capacity as chief Budget Officer, submits the tentative budget to the Village Board for consideration.

The role of the Village Board of Trustees is to review the submitted budget, make changes at their discretion and, finally, vote on it. Many hours are spent with the Board meeting with the various departments as they review the budget. The budget vote was April 23.

The final budget of \$15,641,167 requires \$9,823,715 to be raised by taxes and a tax rate of \$223.445 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. This rate is \$14.558



higher than the rate for 2006-2007 and represents a 6.97% tax rate increase.

There were a number of factors which affected both the revenue and the expenditure side of the budget this year.

On the revenue side, expectations are that the sales tax revenues will increase by \$70,000 and the Utilities Gross Tax by \$20,000. Increases in various fees such as the monthly parking permit and the daily rates at the station parking lot, and the garbage disposal fees, as well as increases in fines and interest earnings added between \$300,000 and \$400,000

to the revenue side. The Village also moved \$200,000 from its reserve account and \$200,000 from the Retirement Reserve account. Retirement contributions increased over \$250,000 this year continuing a trend over the last few years.

On the expenditure side, personnel costs reflect ongoing contracts with the Croton Police Association and Teamsters as well as increases recommended for non-contract employees. Also, with regard to personnel, a new position of Ass't. Village Engineer is included due to the increasing demands on the Engineering office over the last several years. Compliance with upcoming NYS auditing requirements, known as GASB 34 and GASB 45, added \$33,000. Legal costs were budgeted at \$361,000 reflecting the increased level of costs associated with ongoing litigation on IA Croton Point Ave. and other litigation matters. Other areas where increases have been included in the budget are insurance, the police department patrol boat, changes to the ambulance/EMS service, and debt service.

An agreement with the Croton Free Library resulted in a reduction of an annual contribution of \$100,000 to \$33,000 this year and no contribution in future budgets.

The Water Fund will have increased funding as a result of a 7.3% in water rates. Sewer rates, which are tied to the water rates, will also see a 7.09% increase.

The capital fund which identifies expenditures for major Village projects and equipment purchases projects \$1,482,596 in costs with \$1,058,548 provided through bonding.

May

Calendar

- 7 & 21 Village Board Mtg.
- 8 & 22 Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 2 Cons. Advisory Council
- 8 Recreation Adv. Comm.
- 9 Zoning Bd. of Appeals
- 16 Water Control Comm.
- 16 Visual Environ. Bd.
- 23 Trails Committee
- 28 **Memorial Day**

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Fire Department Parade

On Saturday, May 19th at 6 pm, the Croton Volunteer Fire Department will host their first parade since 1987.

Volunteer fire departments, ambulance corps and marching bands from many towns and villages will be joining Croton's Fire Dept. in the parade. It is hoped that all residents will come to see the parade as it makes its way along the route through the "Harmon" section of the Village which is now having its 100th birthday. The sidewalks along Cleveland Dr. and Benedict Blvd. will provide the best view of the parade which is expected to last about two hours. Parking will be on the adjacent streets.

The parade will start on Cleveland Dr. in the vicinity of the Croton Free Library, continue south on Cleveland Dr. to Benedict Blvd. to South Riverside Ave. and then proceed west on Croton Point Ave.

New Handicapped Lift Installed

A new vertical platform wheelchair lift has been installed at the rear of the Municipal Building to provide better handicap accessibility. As shown below, the entrance at the ground level is to an enclosed lift which rises to the entry level of the building one floor above. The door at the building entrance opens/closes with a push button.



The lift enclosure was custom built by and installed by Nikko Construction at a cost of \$54,490.



The door to the lift is

opened using a "universal key" that many permanently handicapped people possess for use in similar facilities all over the country. People who are temporarily disabled will be able to obtain a key as well. The lift is operational now for those with keys. Procedures for obtaining a key are being developed. If you need lift access prior to keys being available, please make arrangements in advance by calling the Police Dept. at 271-5177 or the Village Office at 271-4781. Someone will meet you to provide access.

Last Chance for Sidewalk Program!

The Village's 7-year program to help residents finance necessary sidewalk improvements is ending as of May 31, 2007. Although the work may not be done for several years, if you wish to be part of this program you MUST sign up for it prior to that time. The program provides for a 60/40 division of costs with the Village paying 40%.

There is no cost or payment to be made at the time of signing up. Later on, when the work is scheduled you will be contacted for payment and you will still be able to decline at that time.

After the program expires at the end of this month, all sidewalk improvements will be solely at the homeowner's cost. Letters of reminder have gone out to homeowners whose sidewalks are currently deemed to need improvement. In the future, where sidewalks are in disrepair, and the homeowner has not signed up for the program, violations will be issued.

Since there is no cost to sign up and no payment until the work is done, everyone with a defective sidewalk is urged to take advantage of this opportunity. Contact the Building Dept. at 271-4783 for info and to sign up.

Summerfest



On Sunday, June 3, Croton's 20th annual Summerfest celebrating the beginning of the summer season will occur.

Join fellow celebrants as a parade kicks off the event at 1 pm. starting at Five Corners and proceeding to the Grand St. Firehouse. The fun continues through 6 pm with live music throughout the afternoon. Street vendors, delicious foods, and wonderful entertainment will be abundant throughout the day.

Walk for a Healthy Community



County Executive Andy Spano has encouraged municipal officials in a challenge to make each community healthier. In support of this effort to promote healthy living, the Mayor and Trustees will be leading a walk along our Hudson River waterfront on Sat., May 5th.

The walk will start at the south end of Elliott Way at 1 pm. All residents are encouraged to join the walk.



Reminder!

**Village Offices will be closed Monday, May 28th
for Memorial Day.**



Spotlight on Emily Fannon

As Aide to the Village Manager, Emily Fannon joined the staff in September, 2006, but she is not new to working in the Village offices. Working as an intern in summers and during school breaks since 2002, Emily gained considerable experience in village operations in both the Manager's and the Engineer's offices.

Currently her responsibilities include designing and managing the Village website, researching and writing grant and award applications, and assisting with correspondence and board meeting preparation. Emily also assists several volunteer committees with their meetings and maintaining their web pages on the Village site.

The recent improvements to the Village website, including

a new, more professional format, the content for the committee pages, and the new "Quick Links" for fast access to important information are the result of Emily's pursuit of ways to make better use of this medium. She is currently exploring further improvements that would allow bill paying, obtaining property information, and the ability to submit forms in the future. She believes that as more documents and past minutes are provided, residents benefit by having the same information resources as the staff.

Emily graduated from St. Mary's College - Notre Dame in Indiana where she had a concentration in New Media Arts in the Fine Arts Dept. Her long run plans for the future include pursuing a

Masters degree in Public Administration. She is particularly interested in planning and "green community" opportunities.

Emily grew up in Croton where she is currently living. She attended CET, St. Augustine's for middle school and the Dominican Academy in NYC for high school.

During college, a semester in Seville, Spain, added to her love of travel. She hopes to do some traveling in South America, particularly Peru, to explore her interest in their fiber arts culture. With her friends she enjoys camping in upstate New York and visiting her friends in the Midwest. She is also an avid yoga fan.



"It's exciting to be part of new development initiatives in the Village and to know the history of past ones."

Emily Fannon

Don't Forget the Blood Drive!

Be sure the semi-annual Blood Drive is on your calendar. It will be held on Sun., May 6, 9am to 3 pm, at Croton-Harmon High School. Sponsored by Croton's Lions Club, Rotary Club and Business Council, the blood program serves the needs of patients in 52 Hudson Valley hospitals. For more information and appointments, send an email to communityblood-drive@aol.com.



Photo ID Schedule

In preparation for summer days at Silver Lake, Senasqua Park and Hudson National Golf Course, Village Photo IDs will be taken in the Recreation

Office on the second floor of the Municipal Building on the following schedule:

Tues. & Thurs.	12:30 - 3:30 PM
Sat. May 12; June 16, 23	9:00 - 12 Noon
Mon. May 7	6:00 - 9:00 PM
Tues. May 22, June 5, July 10	4:00 - 8:00 PM
Weds. May 30	6:00 - 9:00 PM

Proof of residency which includes a photo ID with address is required along with a current tax or utility bill. Old Recreation ID's are not acceptable.



Village/Library Agreement

The Croton Free Library and the Village have agreed that starting with the library's 2007-2008 budget, the library, which is primarily funded by taxes approved at the same time the school district budget is voted upon, will no longer receive an annual contribution of \$100,000 from the Village. The library, like the school district, encompasses approximately 30% more taxpayers than the Village. A final contribution of \$33,000 will be made by the Village to cover the gap between the library's fiscal year start and when it receives its first tax payment. Additionally, the Historical Society room at the library will be returned to library uses. The society's exhibits will be relocated to the first floor of the Municipal Building - where the Historical Society has its office and storage space.

Annual Stormwater Report

As part of requirements of its federal- and state-mandated stormwater management program, the Village's annual report to residents will be made by Ken Kraft at the Village Board meeting of May 21, 2007. The annual report will cover the period from March 2006 to March 2007 and will inform the public on steps being taken by the Village to control the impacts of stormwater runoff as well as provide education about its importance.



May, 2007

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the Village of Croton-on-
Hudson**

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One Van Wyck Street
(914) 271-4781-2
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Got a Question?



What is the process for requesting a replacement for a burned out street light?



There is one in front of my house and, from time to time, I observe a burned-out light in other locations.

If you observe a street light in need of replacement, there are two ways you can report it and request its replacement. You can call the DPW at 271-3775 to report it and you can also report it using the Village's website. To use the website, take the following steps:

- Go to the website at crotononhudson-ny.gov
- On the left, click on "Departments"
- Select Dept. of Public Works
- Select "Light outage" from menu
- Fill out the form and click on "Send"

When reporting a street light out, please provide as much information as possible about the location, such

as the number of the house nearest to the dark light, the pole number on the pole, and, if appropriate, describe the problem—i.e. blinking, completely dark, glass broken, etc. You will also be asked for your name, address and phone number for any follow-up questions.

The light will be repaired as soon as possible. However, street light replacement is not done on a single-light basis. Light replacement requires the use of the Village's truck equipped with a "cherry picker". This truck is regularly used for many public works operations so it must be scheduled for light replacement. Reports of street lights that are out are batched together and then handled several at a time rather than on a single report basis.

Pavilion Rental



The pavilion may be rented for private parties with a valid Croton Rec. & Parks ID. Sign up at the Recreation office. Weekend dates go quickly.

Parties may be up to 100 people. The cost is \$200/\$275 res./school district res.

